



# HF Happenings 794

Volume 16, Issue 5, the week of 7 May 2018



You are looking at ZA-0020, the lighthouse at Doring Bay on the West Coast. (Photo taken by Dennis, ZS4BS/mobile 1 on Wednesday 9 May 2018 after some geocaching as well. Carina and I spent Tuesday evening in Strandfontein.)

## International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend (ILLW)

The ILLW runs over the weekend of 18 and 19 August 2018. I had a look at the listing for 2018 and see that three South African lighthouses have registered so far.

Cape Hangklip Lighthouse, ZA0010 to be activated by the Cape Radio Group, ZS1CRG with six operators

Green Point Lighthouse, ZA0006 to be activated by the Cape Town Amateur Radio Centre, ZS1CT. This is their 21<sup>st</sup> year in the ILLW.

Cape Point Lighthouse (New and Old) ZA0013 and 14 to be activated by Gregory, ZS1EZ, Ursula, ZS1UP and Terence, ZR1ACI.

## Bad Operating Practices on Hf

Following a recent communicated trend of on air abuse including misconduct on 20 m, the Namibian Amateur Radio League (NARL) President Werner, V51JP and the SARL President Nico, ZS6QL engaged with the respective individuals and were able to resolve the matter. Unfortunately, this did not end there, we are currently facing a situation where South African radio amateurs are now themselves guilty of misconduct on the air.

Amateur radio is a self-governing hobby and we as respected amateurs operate in accordance with a code of conduct which stand for cooperation, assistance, loyalty, good-will, patience, consideration and friendship when operating on the air.

The SARL Council would like to appeal to our South African amateurs to refrain from bad behaviour and poor operating practices. Please promote fair play and adhere to the amateur code of conduct on the air in the spirit of amateur radio.

You can now download your copy of HF Happenings from [www.sarl.org.za/hf\\_happenings.asp](http://www.sarl.org.za/hf_happenings.asp)

## May

8 - Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives during the Second World War

10 - Ascension Day

12 - World Migratory Bird Day; ONERUN, Cape Town

13 - Mother's Day

15 - International Day of Families

16 - Start of Ramadan

18 to 20 - Hamvention 2018, Xenia, Ohio

19 - May RAE (10:00 to 13:00 CAT); the AMSATSA Space Symposium and the Royal Wedding

20 - ZS3 Sprint

21 - Closing date for AWA Valve QSO Party logs

24 - Closing date for June Radio ZS

25 - Cape Town ARC meeting

26 - Shiraz and Charcuterie Festival, Franschhoek

25 and 26 - CQ WPX CW contest; Pretoria ARC rally communications at the Secunda SCC; Stoep Tasting Wine Weekend, Graaff-Reinet

25 to 27 - South Africa Bike Festival, Kyalami; Greyton Genadendal Classics Festival

27 - Closing date ZS3 Sprint logs

31 to 3 June - Wacky Wine Weekend, Robertson

## June

1 to 3 - Ham Radio 2018 in Friedrichshafen

2 - West Rand ARC Flea Market

4 - World Environmental Day

8 - World Oceans Day

10 - Hammies Sprint

15 - Eid-al-Fitr

16 - Youth Day; East Rand ARC Flea Market

17 - Father's Day; World QRP Day; closing date for Hammies log sheets

21 - Winter Solstice

21 to 25 - SARL Top Band QSO Party

22 - all schools close; closing date for the July Radio ZS

23 - Cape Town ARC meeting

30 - World Asteroid Day; end of the SARL Financial year

## "Warranty void if sticker removed!" - Don't believe it

Those stickers appear more and more frequently on new electronic devices. The FTC recently reminded a number of companies that the use of third-party repair services or parts does NOT affect warranty rights and that such warnings may be in violation of the law <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/press-releases/2018/04/ftc-staff-warns-companies-it-illegal-condition-warranty-coverage>

## Dutch National Windmill and Water pump-station Weekend

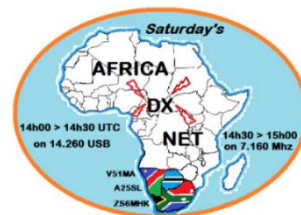
The weekend of 12 and 13 May will see the following activations among others (an award is available too): PB18MILL, PA6WMDD, PA6MPV, PA18NST, PA6WMAF, PA6WACHER, OT4V/p, GB5HW, GB1BWM, MX1BED. Visit <http://www.pd6mill.com/>



## African DX

*Contacts with stations on the African continent count towards the SARL's All Africa Award ([www.sarl.org.za/public/awards/awards.asp](http://www.sarl.org.za/public/awards/awards.asp))*

Rwanda, 9X. Harald, DF2WO will be active again as 9X2AW from Kigali, Rwanda between 5 and 24 June. He will operate CW, SSB, FT8 and RTTY on the HF bands and 6 metres. QSL via LoTW or M00XO's OQRS.



eSwatini, 3DA. Pista, HA5AO will be active as 3DA0AO (requested call sign) from eSwatini (Swaziland) during the second half of September. He will operate CW, RTTY, FT8 and some SSB on 80 to 10 metres. Log search and OQRS will be available at <https://www.ha5ao.co>. As he did in Lesotho in previous years, Pista continues his humanitarian project work by supporting an orphanage. He will deliver school items and small gifts to the children. More details to follow at a later date. Swaziland was recently renamed "The Kingdom of eSwatini" by King Mswati III to mark the 50th anniversary of independence. The new name means "land of the Swazis".

## African Islands

IOTA frequencies

CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz

SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz

Canary Islands, EA8. The Union de Radioaficionados de Las Palmas (EA8URL) will be active as EG8CID between 10 and 30 May in celebration of the Day of the Canary Islands (30 May). QSL via LoTW or EA8URL.



Rodriguez Island, 3B9. Jacky, FR4NP, Bruno, FR4PF, Emile, FR4PM, Jean, FR5CB and Patrick, FR5FC will be active together from Rodrigues Island (AF-017) from 11 and 16 May as 3B9RUN on 80 to 10 m (SSB and FT8). QSL via EA7FTR.



Maderia, CT9. Tibor, OM3RM will be active as CT9ABN from Madeira (AF-014) between 19 and 29 May. He will be active on 80 to 10 metres and will participate in the CQ WW WPX CW Contest as CR3DX. QSLs via OM2VL.

Reunion Island, FR. Thomas, F4HPX, will once again be active as FR/F4HPX from various locations on Reunion Island (AF-016) between 25 May and 15 June. He will be operating from his family home and from beaches and especially from the mountains because there is a lot of them including an active volcano. His SOTA aim this year is the tallest FR/RE-001 at 3 070 m ASL. Activity will be on 40 to 15 metres using CW (possibly), SSB, RTTY, PSK31, JT65, JT9 and possibly FT8. He will use various wire and portable antennas with 2 rigs: FT-891 from home with 100 w and KX2 outside (alone or with small 30 W HF amp). QSL via his home callsign, by the Bureau, direct, LoTW, eQSL or ClubLog's OQRS.

## DXCC web sites of interests

Rich, KY6R, has restarted two interesting DX blog pages. Check them out at The DXCC Sleuth, <https://dxccsleuth.blog>. It has an interesting chart of some DXCC history and other notable facts. Topband Chordal Hopper, <https://topbandchordalhopper.blog>, this is a more technical blog.

## "A \$200 Panadapter"

In April 2018, Tom, N1MM, presented to the Yankee Clipper Contest Club on the topic of "A \$200 Panadapter." He's made his presentation available to everyone on the N1MM website [https://n1mm.hamdocs.com/tiki-list\\_file\\_gallery.php%3FgalleryId=5](https://n1mm.hamdocs.com/tiki-list_file_gallery.php%3FgalleryId=5). Tom uses an Airspy HF+ SDR receiver <https://airspy.com/airspy-hf-plus/> with SDR Console software <http://www.sdr-radio.com/Console> to show how band information can be displayed inside an *N1MM Logger+* window, with or without call sign information.

## Word to the Wise

**Galvanic Corrosion** - when two dissimilar metals are in contact, corrosion may occur due to differing electrode potentials of the metals. Metals are ranked according to their electrode potentials [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galvanic\\_series](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galvanic_series), the more "negative" of two metals will usually be the one to be corroded, if smaller in area than the more "positive." Radio towers and antennas are usually constructed of metal and care must be taken when using fasteners, clamps and hardware to ensure compatibility between metals that are in direct contact. The environment also has a large influence on corrosion -- for example moist versus wet and fresh versus salt water. ARRL's website has an article on galvanic corrosion that may inform your choices <http://www.arrl.org/galvanic-corrosion>.

## Sights and Sounds

You can sit in on some presentations of the Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club by viewing the Fair Lawn ARC YouTube Channel. According to Rob, KA2PBT, their videographer Thom, W2NZ, is building up a "sizeable library of the club's programs and speakers." Programs covering a wide range of topics are available for your on-demand viewing. [www.youtube.com/channel/UCUoeJg2WLdx1agnMWGE2M1A/videos](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUoeJg2WLdx1agnMWGE2M1A/videos)

Back in the 1990s, before video, internet and video on the internet were prevalent, there was PJ1B, which went head to head with other stations from P4 and PJ9. Stu, VE7ZZ, was kind enough to upload video of CQ WW DX Phone contests from that era to YouTube, where you can see the station hardware and watch how stations are moved between bands <https://www.youtube.com/user/stuhoar>.

## 2017 CQ WW DX SSB contest

The results article (PDF) for the 2017 CQ WW DX SSB contest is available online [http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq\\_contests/cq\\_ww\\_dx\\_contest/ContestStory.pdf](http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_contests/cq_ww_dx_contest/ContestStory.pdf).

## Operating Tip

Cinco Nueve / Fünf Neun / Cinq Neuf / пять девять (pyat' devyat') / Vijf Negen

Learn how to say your call sign in other languages to get more contacts in phone contests. If the exchange is just a signal report, you can likely get by just knowing your call sign and the letters and numbers of the target language. Try calling CQ while pointing in a suitable direction.

## Machine Learning may help predict solar storms in the future

Researchers are applying machine learning to chaotic systems [www.quantamagazine.org/machine-learning-amazing-ability-to-predict-chaos-20180418/](http://www.quantamagazine.org/machine-learning-amazing-ability-to-predict-chaos-20180418/) using a technique they've named "reservoir computing." Rather than constructing a precise model of a system's behaviour, data is collected on the actual behaviour of systems and used to train the "reservoir" to be able to predict future states with greater accuracy. Solar storm prediction as a problem is similar in nature to using the heart's electrical signals to predict cardiac events and the use of weather readings to predict future weather events.

## Combining Spot Information

It is a situation you *do not* face every day - you need to combine spot information from multiple sources, for example a packet cluster and a skimmer operating locally. Rich, VE3KI, suggested

<https://groups.io/g/N1MMLoggerPlus/message/34519> that in such cases, you could "run a spot aggregator program like *WinTelnetX* on the computer that is running *CW Skimmer*" to combine the local and remote sources of spots and act as a local spot server.

## Lithium battery

Lithium battery capacity may be able to increase 50 percent by incorporating a new cathode design, according to researchers <https://www.v3.co.uk/v3-uk/news/3030255/scientists-uncover-new-battery-chemical-with-50-percent-more-storage-capacity>. With a combination of structural and chemistry changes, fluorine doping is used to replace cobalt and nickel in traditional cathodes with manganese.

## Contest Calendar

This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 7 to 14 May 2018

### RSGB 80 m Club Championship, SSB

19:00 - 20:30 UTC 7 May

Geographic Focus: United Kingdom

Participation: Worldwide

Awards: United Kingdom

Mode: SSB

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RS and serial no

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 8 May 2018

Upload log at: <http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

[http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2018/r80\\_mcc.shtml](http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2018/r80_mcc.shtml)

### ARS Spartan Sprint

01:00 - 03:00 UTC 8 May

Geographic Focus: North America

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Skinny; Tubby

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and power

Work stations: Once per band

Submit logs by: 10 May 2018

E-mail logs to: [spartansprint@yahoo.com](mailto:spartansprint@yahoo.com)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: [http://arsgrp.blog-](http://arsgrp.blog-spot.com/2009/02/so-whats-spartan-sprint-and-how-do-i.html)

[spot.com/2009/02/so-whats-spartan-sprint-and-how-do-i.html](http://arsgrp.blog-spot.com/2009/02/so-whats-spartan-sprint-and-how-do-i.html)

### Phone Fray

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 9 May

Geographic Focus: North America

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m

Classes: Single Op

Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 11 May 2018

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: [http://www.per-](http://www.perluma.com/Phone_Fray_Contest_Rules.pdf)

[luma.com/Phone\\_Fray\\_Contest\\_Rules.pdf](http://www.perluma.com/Phone_Fray_Contest_Rules.pdf)

### CWops Mini-CWT Test

13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 9 May and

03:00 - 04:00 UTC 10 May

Geographic Focus: Worldwide

Participation: Worldwide

Awards: Worldwide

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-

Member: Name and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each call once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 12 May 2018

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html>

### NCCC RTTY Sprint

01:45 - 02:15 UTC 11 May  
 Geographic Focus: North America  
 Participation: Worldwide  
 Mode: RTTY  
 Bands: (see rules)  
 Classes: (none)  
 Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH  
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
 Submit logs by: May 13, 2018  
 E-mail logs to: (none)  
 Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>  
 Mail logs to: (none)  
 Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html>

NCCC Sprint  
 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 11 May  
 Geographic Focus: North America  
 Participation: Worldwide  
 Mode: CW  
 Bands: (see rules)  
 Classes: (none)  
 Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH  
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
 Submit logs by: 13 May 2018  
 E-mail logs to: (none)  
 Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>  
 Mail logs to: (none)  
 Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

VOLTA WW RTTY Contest  
 12:00 UTC 12 May to 12:00 UTC 13 May  
 Geographic Focus: Worldwide  
 Participation: Worldwide  
 Mode: RTTY  
 Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m  
 Classes: Single Op All Band; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Op; SWL  
 Exchange: RST, QSO no and CQ Zone  
 Work stations: Once per band  
 QSO Points: See rules  
 Multipliers: Each country and VK, VE, JA, ZL and W call area (see rules) once per band  
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x total QSOs  
 Submit logs by: 31 May 2018  
 E-mail logs to: [log2018@contestvolta.it](mailto:log2018@contestvolta.it)  
 Mail logs to: (none)  
 Find rules at: <http://www.contestvolta.com/rules.pdf>

CQ-M International DX Contest  
 12:00 UTC 12 May to 11:59 UTC 13 May  
 Geographic Focus: Worldwide  
 Participation: Worldwide  
 Awards: Worldwide  
 Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m  
 Classes: Single Op Single Band - CW, SSB or mixed; Single Op All Band - CW, SSB or mixed - low or high; Single Op All Band QRP; Multi-Single; SWL; World War II Veteran  
 Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts  
 Exchange: RS(T) and serial no  
 QSO Points: (see rules)  
 Multipliers: Each RS-150-C country once per band  
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
 Submit logs by: 13 June 2018  
 E-mail logs to: [cqm@srr.ru](mailto:cqm@srr.ru)  
 Upload log at: [www.ua9qcq.com](http://www.ua9qcq.com)  
 Mail logs to: (none)  
 Find rules at: <http://cqm.srr.ru/en-rules/>

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon  
 12:00 UTC 12 May to 24:00 UTC 13 May  
 Geographic Focus: Worldwide  
 Participation: Worldwide  
 Awards: Worldwide  
 Mode: CW  
 Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m  
 Classes: (none)  
 Max operating hours: 24  
 Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and SKCC no or "NONE"  
 Work stations: Once per band  
 QSO Points: 1 point per QSO  
 Bonus Points: (see rules)  
 Multipliers: Each state, province, or country once  
 Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points  
 Submit logs by: 20 May 2018  
 Post log summary at: [http://www.skccgroup.com/operating\\_activities/weekend\\_sprintathon/submit-display.php](http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon/submit-display.php)  
 Mail logs to: (none)  
 Find rules at: [http://www.skccgroup.com/operating\\_activities/weekend\\_sprintathon/](http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon/)

Arkansas QSO Party  
 14:00 UTC 12 May to 02:00 UTC 13 May  
 Geographic Focus: United States/Canada state/province QSO party  
 Participation: Worldwide  
 Mode: CW, Phone, Digital  
 Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m  
 Classes: Single Op – SSB or mixed - QRP, low or high; Single Op CW - low or high; RTTY/PSK Only; Multi-Single; Multi-Multi; Single Op Mobile; Multi-Op Mobile; Single Op Portable; Multi-Op Portable; Single Op Rover; Multi-Op Rover  
 Max power: HP: >150 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 10 watts

Exchange: AR: RS(T) and county; non-AR: RS(T) and state, province or "DX"  
 Work stations: Once per band per mode per county  
 QSO Points: 1 point per SSB QSO; 2 points per CW QSO; 3 points per digital QSO; Bonus: 200 points per WR5P or W5AHS QSO  
 Multipliers: AR: Each AR county/state/province once and one "DX"; non-AR: Each AR county once  
 Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points  
 Submit logs by: 26 May 2018  
 E-mail logs to: [arkqp@cox.net](mailto:arkqp@cox.net)  
 Mail logs to: Arkansas QSO Party, c/o Don Banta, K5DB, 3407 Diana St., Springdate, AR 72764 USA  
 Find rules at: <http://www.arkqp.com/>

FISTS Spring Unlimited Sprint  
 17:00 - 21:00 UTC 12 May  
 Geographic Focus: United States/Canada  
 Participation: Worldwide  
 Awards: United States/Canada  
 Mode: CW  
 Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m  
 Classes: QRP; QRO; Club  
 Max power: QRO: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts  
 Exchange: FISTS: RST, state, province or country, first name and FISTS no; non-FISTS: RST, state, province or country, first name and power  
 Work stations: Once per band  
 QSO Points: 5 points per QSO with FIST member; FIST members: 2 points per QSO with non-FIST member  
 Multipliers: Each US state and VE province once; Each DXCC country once  
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
 Submit logs by: 11 June 2018  
 E-mail logs to: [n2ed@fistsna.org](mailto:n2ed@fistsna.org)  
 Mail logs to: (none)  
 Find rules at: <http://fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints>

WAB 7 MHz Phone  
 10:00 - 14:00 UTC 13 May  
 Mode: SSB  
 Bands: 40 m Only  
 Classes: Single Op - fixed, mobile or portable; Multi-Op - fixed, mobile or portable; Low Power; SWL - fixed, mobile or portable  
 Max power: non-Low: >10 watts; Low: 10 watts  
 Exchange: British Isles: RS, serial no and WAB square; Other: RS, serial no and country  
 QSO Points: (see rules)  
 Multipliers: (see rules)  
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
 Submit logs by: 3 June 2018  
 E-mail logs to: [g3xkt@worked-all-britain.org.uk](mailto:g3xkt@worked-all-britain.org.uk)  
 Mail logs to: Tony Beardsley, G3XKT, 14 York Avenue, Sandiacre, Nottingham NG10 5HB, United Kingdom  
 Find rules at: <http://wab.intermip.net/Contests.php>

4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint  
 00:00 - 02:00 UTC 14 May  
 Geographic Focus: North America  
 Participation: Worldwide  
 Mode: CW, SSB  
 Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m  
 Classes: Single Op  
 Exchange: Member: RS(T), state, province or country and member no; Non-member: RS(T), state, province or country and Power  
 Work stations: Once per band  
 QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 2 points per QSO with member  
 Multipliers: (none)  
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points  
 Submit logs by: 16 May 2018  
 E-mail logs to: (none)  
 Post log summary at: <http://qrpcontest.com/4sqrp>  
 Mail logs to: (none)  
 Find rules at: [http://www.4sqrp.com/SSS/sss\\_rules.pdf](http://www.4sqrp.com/SSS/sss_rules.pdf)

## **KH1/KH7Z Baker Island DXpedition**

Press Release, date 27 April

Following a successful Visalia DX Convention, the KH1/KH7Z team met in Cupertino this week to assemble the stations and network in preparation of landing on Baker in 2 months. The DXpedition is now in the final planning stages and this step was the last before packing and shipping our gear to Fiji.

Stations - DXpedition sponsors Elecraft and DX Engineering provided the required gear. There will be 8 stations on Baker Island consisting of 8 Elecraft K3S transceivers - 7 powered by KPA500s; the 8th low band station powered by a KPA1500 amp. This is the first expedition to use a KPA1500 and the team and Elecraft are looking forward to seeing this exciting new amplifier in action. There will be 3 separate tents for CW, SSB and Digital stations.

Co-leaders K6TD and N1DG and AA7A, K6GFJ, K6MM, ND2T and N6MZ assembled the stations, activated the BGAN satellite network, interfaced the NUC computers and monitors and installed N1MM+ in a complete on-island simulation (including generator power). We also successfully simulated making QSOs and uploading sample logs to ClubLog via the BGAN.

The network was designed by our IT team led by AA7A and N6MZ and consists of rapidly deployed transit boxes containing the switches power hubs and POE repeaters. Upon reaching the island the team will deploy these cases and run out cables from the central CW tent to SSB and Digital tents. All N1MM+ computers will be networked to our centre administrative PC N1MM+ allowing 2 uploads daily via satellite to ClubLog to minimize duplicate contacts.

Antennas - although limited to 43 feet (13 metres), our 80 and 160 metre antennas are newly designed AA7JV "fat" verticals, which will sit just inside the high tide mark. The SteppiR verticals for 75 through 10 metres will also be mounted just inside of the high tide mark while four 2-element vertical arrays will be mounted away from the water for 15, 17 and 20 metres. In this way, we can maintain a 24-hour presence on 20 metres to maximize the number of unique callsigns and enable the most ATNO contacts. We also intend to install a multi-vertical array for 6 metres at the digital radios.

Testing the SteppiRs and our own design of vertical arrays is all that remains before cleaning and sterilizing our gear to meet the FWS Biological Protocols and sending the gear to our freight forwarder. Please visit [www.baker2018.net/pages/pretrip.html](http://www.baker2018.net/pages/pretrip.html) to see more pictures relating to our testing activity this week.

As with any DXpedition to the rare ones, this will be another large budget operation. The operator team will contribute over 50% of the expected budget of \$400 000. You can help make this DXpedition happen by visiting our website and contributing today [www.baker2018.net/pages/donate.html](http://www.baker2018.net/pages/donate.html)  
Thank you in advance for your support, The Baker Island 2018 Team

## Next Week's Contests

Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 16 May  
CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 16 May and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 17 May  
RSGB 80 m Club Championship, Data, 19:00 - 20:30 UTC 16 May  
NAQCC CW Sprint, 00:30 - 02:30 UTC 17 May  
NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 18 May  
NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 18 May  
Portuguese Navy Day Contest, 09:00 UTC 18 May to 17:00 UTC 20 May  
Slobozhansky Sprint Contest, 18:00 - 19:59 UTC (SSB) and 20:00 - 21:59 UTC 18 May (CW)  
UN DX Contest, 06:00 - 21:00 UTC 19 May  
NZART Sangster Shield Contest, 08:00 - 11:00 UTC 19 May and 08:00 - 11:00 UTC 20 May  
His Majesty the King of Spain CW Contest, 12:00 UTC 19 May to 12:00 UTC 20 May  
EU PSK DX Contest, 12:00 UTC 19 May to 12:00 UTC 20 May  
Aegean RTTY Contest, 12:00 UTC 19 May to 12:00 UTC 20 May  
Feld Hell Sprint, 16:00 - 17:59 UTC and 20:00 - 21:59 UTC 19 May  
Baltic Contest, 21:00 UTC 19 May to 02:00 UTC 20 May  
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 21 May

*Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC News, DX World and the Amateur Radio Newsletter*